

Expedited Partner Therapy Fact Sheet for Pharmacists



In Arizona, the rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are steadily increasing. Treatment is critically important to controlling these diseases, especially among adolescents, young adults, and certain racial groups where rates remain high.

In April of 2008, Senate Bill 1078 was passed which amends ARS 32-1401.27 and 32-1854 to allow allopathic, naturopathic, and osteopathic physicians, or physician assistants to dispense and/or prescribe antimicrobial medications to contacts to patients with communicable diseases without an intervening health assessment of partner. The application of this statute, for STDs such as gonorrhea and chlamydia, is referred to as expedited partner therapy (EPT). The law became effective September 26, 2008. EPT is now being utilized in all but 11 states. Registered nurse practitioners in Arizona are also allowed to provide EPT as determined by the Arizona Board of Nursing.

As a practicing pharmacist in your community, you will likely become a part of EPT as your patients and their partners will rely on you to dispense these medications prescribed by their providers. You are an essential link in this chain, and can facilitate the treatment process by helping to educate the patient of the importance of complying with their medication regimen. You have a unique opportunity as a pharmacist to provide your patient with the pertinent information about the medication.

Data has been collected from studies comparing the efficacy of EPT to standard partner therapy. Some of the findings include:

- EPT is a useful option to facilitate partner referral among heterosexual men and women with chlamydia or gonorrhea, and to prevent re-infection of patients with chlamydia or gonorrhea.
- EPT is at least equivalent in efficacy to standard partner management for gonorrhea and chlamydia
- EPT is a cost-saving and cost effective partner management strategy.

For more information and frequently asked questions visit:

The CDC website on Expedited Partner Therapy:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/Treatment/EPTFinalReport2006.pdf>

The Arizona Department of Health Services STD website:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/std/index.htm>

Or contact:

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Points to discuss with patients and partners filling prescriptions for 1 gram of azithromycin x 1 dose and/or 400mg of cefixime x 1 dose.

- Patients and partners should not engage in sexual activity for 7 days.
- Patients and partners should be referred for STD retesting in 3 months.
- Discuss possible allergic reactions to antibiotics
- Discuss possible drug interactions
- Encourage patients to have partners seen by a medical provider for complete STD testing and treatment.
- Encourage patients and partners to visit the CDC website for more information on STDs. (www.cdc.gov/std)

This information was developed and approved by the Arizona Department of Health Services Sexually Transmitted Disease Program (October 2008).